The Counter-Rat,

OR

OATS

Sifted and Sack't up in the

COUNTER,

And since Removed to the

KINGS-BENCH,

In a Letter to *W. C.* Esq;

YOU have heard, since the last Nipping Frost, how the Rate of Corn goes in *England*; the *Wheat* being wither'd in the Stalk, and the *Barley* blasted in the Blade, begins with the warm Sun to peep out again, all sorts of Grain begin to Flourish but *Oates*, which dare not show his Head above ...und.

...earing he was absconded, I made (according to your Request) the ...ch I cou'd, *viz.* by *Hue and Cry*; *Bell, Book,* and *Candle*; ...*cation*, *Proclamation*, *Narrative*, and *Remonstrance*. I searched the ...ets and the Coffee Houses, for fear they shou'd Roast him instead of ...ee Berries, the *Black Box*, and the *Meal Tub*, least he should like another ...*nny*, raise a new Plot out of his own *Dust*. I search'd the new King of ...*ds*, where he us'd to Resort, and his Neighbouring Tavern, the *Dog*, ...*rury-Lane*, for fear the Hound *Bowman* shou'd hang him at his Sign-... for a Bush, or the *Tories* keep him for a Bonfire the next general *Club*. ...rch'd the *Cabals* & *Conventickles*, least the Saints shou'd gather him up ...*seph* did the Corn in *Egypt*) for fear of a Famine of the Gospel. I ...h'd the L. *Peter's* Magazine, and the L. *Powis's* Stables, least he should ...ored up to feed the Subterranean *Troops* of *Horse* that lay invisible un-...ground, against the next *Invasion* of *Spanish Pilgrims* Visible only to ...elf. For this *Mephistophilus* has an Invisible *Familiar* that renders ...y thing Visible to him, which no Man besides himself can discern with a ...ective. As *Black Bills*, *Blank Commissions*, *Armies* of *Pilgrims*, &c. ...e same Nature where his *Baptism* and degrees at *Salamanca*, which no ... Living was ever Witness to but himself, for from this so fam'd *Sala-*...*a*, came this so infamous *Oats*, this *seed* of the *Serpent*, to be planted ...*gland*, as the Plague from *Paris*, or the *Pox* from *Naples*.

...t for the better Grace of the matter. As *Barley* is called Sir *John* ...*eycorn*, *Wheat*, Sir *William Whitebread*, and green Pease in the Cod, ... *Hastings*, so for Distinction sake, hereafter we will call our *Oats*, ...*r*, or *Salamanca*, which you please.

...ow after all my search above and under Ground, where the Devil do ... Imagine at last I should find my *Reverend Doctor* but in the *Counter*, ...e he was carried on Saturday Night for a *Rat*.

And

And now I know you will be ready to ask the Cause why this Darling of the People, this Oracle of the Nation, shou'd be so ill rewarded for his Services?

This Devil of the People, and Firebrand of the Nation; This *Counter-Rat*, this Vermin of the Crown and Court, this Poyson of the State, the Pestilence of the Church is justly Committed for *words* more Malitious than *Colt*, the *Hereford Member*; and *Misdemeanours* higher than Sir *Samuel* the *Ignoramus Foreman*. His *Accusations* are Numberless, his *Crimes* of the deepest *Scarlet*, and his *Countenance* of *Brass*. It is as Impossible to number them, as to find a *Punishment* answerable to his *Desert*.

Besides, his *Murders*, *Perjuries*, *Blasphemies*, &c. He wou'd pretend to set up for a *Mountebank*, and instead of *Orvietan* impose *Poyson* upon the People, by which many have been betrayed out of their Lives. Nay, by this Means, under pretence of *Preservation*, he sought to Destroy his Native *Soveraign*, and had almost purg'd his Royal *Brother* out of the *Kingdom*.

This not taking Effect, and his *Cheats*, by which he had Imposed on the Credulous Multitude, being at last Detected, the Insolent *Rat* began with Open Mouth to Rail against the *Lyon*, *King* of the *Forrest*, because he wou'd not Call an *Assembly* of the *Beasts* to Rule in his Place, and Divest him of his *Regal Authority*. He took it very ill, that the *Wolves* did not *Reign* over the Castled *Elephants* of the *Court*; wou'd have those about the *Lyon* Remov'd, that the *Leopards* and *Panthers* might have a Tug for the *Sovereignty*, and was very Angry, that there was not a Toleration Granted to the *Wolves* and *Tygers*, by Lawless Usurpation, to Prey upon the Harmless *Sheep*, and Glut their *Ravenous Jaws* with *Innocent Blood*.

The Generous *Lyon*, Disdaining the Reproaches of this Mean and Infamous *Rat*, left him to the Mercy of his Brother *Lyon*, who Bore a long time with his Insolencies; till being at last Provok'd by his Inveterate Venomous Tongue, and Scandalous Invectives, Clapt him into the Pound for Trespass and Damage of a Thousand Innocent Sheep Worry'd by him and his Accomplices, for which, its said, he must Pay so many Pounds before he come out.

Next to the *Lyon King* of *Beasts*, and his *R. Brother*, this Poisonous *Rat* Spit his Venom against the *Jackcall*, who was Serviceable to the *Lyon* upon all Occasions, and Asserted his Rights and Priviledges against all his Enemies.

This *Jackcall* was an old *Observer* of all the *Doctors* Insolencies, and had ever an *Antipathy* against the *Counter-Rat*; for which Cause, he went often to the Court with Venomous Complaints against the *Jackcall*; and finding that took not Effect, went always Arm'd with a *Protestant Flail*, and a Paper of Poison, to do his Business at any Rate. But the Old *Observator* had no other Weapon then an old *Goose-Quill*, with which he did so Thrash his *Oats*, Sift and Fan him about, that there was nothing at last but the worthless *Chaff* to be seen, which (cause it might not be lost for want of House Room,) was Gather'd and Sack'd up in the *Counter*, as you have heard.

The next Remove was over the Water, where he will Serve in a Double Capacity, *Oats* to Feed the Furious *Colt*, while he lies at Rack and Manger; the *Doctor*, as *Chaplain*, to *Hold Forth* to the *Brethren* in *Tribulation*, where (unless *Jack* give 'em the last Remove,) that they may long Continue, is the Hearty Wishes of

Your Devoted,

Humble Servant,

M.

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